

NASA-LaRC

SAFETY NEWSLETTER

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Sling Safety Tips

Slings are used daily at LaRC as an important rigging device for lifting. Many slings have been reported as damaged during the annual inspection process that is performed by the Operations Support Division. Below is a summary of items to look for if your facility has slings.

Synthetic web slings do not wear out - they are used and abused ! Here are some tips that spell out what kind of unsafe damage can occur, how it occurs, and how it can be avoided.

Damage - Acid or caustic burn.

Cause - Exposure to hostile elements or material.

Prevention - Use proper sling.

Damage - Melting or charring.

Cause - Excessive temperature.

Prevention - Know the temperature range of the material..

Damage - Snags, tears and cuts.

Cause - Wrapping around sharp corners.

Prevention - Use padding for contact areas.

Damage - Broken or worn stitches.

Cause - Rubbing or dragging sling along abrasive surfaces.

Prevention - Carefully transport and store sling.

Damage - Knotting.

Cause - User abuse.

Prevention - Proper training in use of slings.

Damage - Sling Breakage.

Cause - User abuse.

Prevention - Know the rated capacities of slings.

It is also important to remember that **all** slings are to be stored together in **one** location. (All other associated lifting devices are required to be stored at the same location.) By doing this, it ensures a complete inspection of all lifting devices when the inspection group arrives at your facility.

Another concern that has surfaced recently is the purchasing of slings and other lifting devices without the knowledge of OSD or the OSFA. This contact is critical so that regulatory compliance is guaranteed for the device. It is also important that the device be identified into the OSD maintenance and inspection system. For further information refer to the LaRC Safety Manual, LHB 1740.2, "Facility Safety Requirements", or contact Mr. Dave Pierpont at extension 46305.

Remember, all lifting devices that are used when lifting items are just as important as the crane or hoist. (Sounds like an excellent topic for a safety meeting !)

Safety Harnesses To Replace Belts

To ensure compliance with the OSHA regulation requiring the use of harnesses for fall protection at heights over six feet, the OSFA will begin replacing all belts with harnesses. Each Facility Coordinator should review his facility and inventory the number of belts and submit this **in writing** to Mr. Gary Carl, MS- 429. Belt usage will be reviewed and replacement will be issued on a one-for-one basis. It is expected that this program will take two years to implement. This will still be ample time to meet the OSHA requirement of full compliance by 1998.